

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02201 01 OF 02 181005Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6024

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 2201

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPDC, SHUM, CZ

SUBJECT: LETTER TO CARTER FROM LEADERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM LEADERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY: "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, OUR SMALL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY TAKES THE LIBERTY TO ADDRESS YOU AND TO RAISE TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. IT IS NOT OUR FAULT THAT FOLLOWING THE HITLERIC GENOCIDE WE ARE ONLY A FEW, MERE FRAGMENTS OF A FORMERLY THRIVING RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, HOWEVER, IT IS OUR OPINION THAT IT IS US, AND PARTICULARLY US, WHO SHOULD HAVE A SAY TO ISSUES CONCERNING THE WHOLE WORLD. TO QUESTIONS OF LIFE WHICH WE PROFOUNDLY LOVE AND GENUINELY RESPECT, AND TO THE QUESTION OF DEATH WHICH WE INTIMATELY BECAME FAMILIAR WITH. OUR FIRST POINT WE RAISE WITH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, CONCERNS THE NEUTRON BOMB, IT PRODUCTION AND DISSIMILATION. WE JOIN IN THE NUMEROUS PROTESTS VOICED BY OUR CITIZENS AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, BE IT ON THE OCCASION OF POPULAR ASSEMBLIES IN PRAGUE, GENEVE, AMSTERDAM OR WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE, AND CALL UPON YOU: DO YOUR UTMOST NOT TO LET MANKIND BE FACED NEITHER TODAY NOR IN FUTURE WITH THE THREAT OF THIS MOST BARBAROUS WEAPON OF SPECIAL MASS DESTRUCTION - THE ANNIHILATION OF ALL LIFE* WE CANNOT IMAGINE THAT A POLITICIAN CARRYING HIGH RESPONSIBILITY AND, MOREOVER, AN OFFICER, MEMBER OF AN

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02201 01 OF 02 181005Z

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH, YOU SHOULD NOT BE PUT TO THE BLUSH BY THE COUNSELS OF YOUR ADVISOR, PROFESSOR BRZEZINSKI "TO PUSH THE NUCLEAR BUTTON"... WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION TO PERFORM A "HUMANE" ACT WHICH WOULD BRING ABOUT THE DEATH OF "ONLY" ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF MANKIND...WE, WHO HAD EXPERIENCED AND PHYSICALLY FELT THAT PUSHING OF MANY BUTTONS OF SUCH "HUMANE" KIND INVENTED BY THE NZIS, WE ARE AS WIDE ASUNDER AS POLE AND

POLE FROM BOTH ANY QUANTITATIVE OR QUALITATIVE APPROACH TO THE PROSPECT OF A NUCLEAR WAR. BUT WE ARE TERRIFIED BY THE IDEA THAT THE TOLL WOULD "ONLY" AMOUNT TO TEN PERCENT OF MANKIND* WE DO NOT WISH IT FOR ANYBODY IN THE WORLD TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THESE "MERE" TEN PERCENT. WE HAD, MR. PRESIDENT, MANY FOREMOST RABBIS AMONG OUR RANKS, THEOLOGIANS OF WORLD-WIDE FAME. AS WOULD BE HARDLY POSSIBLE OTHERWISE, THEY WERE NOT ONLY CONCERNED WITH THEOLOGY AND THE TRANSCENDENT, FOR THEY WERE SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF LIVING BELIEVERS, WITH WHOM THEY SHARED WORRIES, SORROWS AND JOY. ONE OF THEM - CHIEF RABBI PHDR. GUSTAV SICHER - IN HIS THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON PEACE CHOSE TO QUOTE THE BOOK: "JUDAISM AS LIFE AND CREED" BY THE DECEASED PIOUS RABBI MORRIS JOSEPH OF LONDON, TO POINT OUT THAT PEACE /EIRENE, PAX, SHALOM/ IS THE SUPPORTING PILLAR OF THE WORLD WITHOUT WHICH NO SOCIAL ORDER CAN SURVIVE. PEACE, THEREFORE, MUST BE PROTECTED TO THE UTMOST. PEACE CONSTITUTES THE REFRAIN OF PRAYERS IN SYNAGOGUES. THERE IS A TWOFOLD DUTY BEFORE US: NOT ONLY TO BE PEACEFUL, BUT ALSO TO HELP OTHERS TO LIVE IN PEACE. PEACE IS NOT ONLY A PERSONAL IDEAL, BUT, MOREOVER, A NATIONAL IDEAL. THE WORST OF ALL IDEAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THE CONVICTION OF THE UNAVOIDABILITY OF WAR. SUCH A VIEW, IF PROMOTED, WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO A LASTING PEACE. THESE IDEAS OF RABBI JOSEPH WERE RECENTLY QUOTED BY T LZJGKAS A HARMONOUS CONVERGENCE OF ALL HUMAN FORCES TOWARDS MORAL AND SPIRITUAL GOALS WHICH PEOPLE CALL THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THE PROPHETS YEARNED FOR A MESSIANIC PEACE "INFUSING THE WHOLE WORLD, ALL MEN, ALL NATIONS,

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 02201 01 OF 02 181005Z

AND EVEN ANIMALS IN THE FIELD." AT THE END OF HIS REFLECTION ON "EIRENE, PAX, SHALOM," OUR CHIEF RABBI DR. SICHER PUT THE FOLLOWING WORDS: MAY ALL OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES MAKE TRUE THE WORDS OF THEIR RABBIS WE CITED. MAY IT BECOME POSSIBLE FOR ALL OF US TO COMPLEMENT THE MAIMONIDIAN TWELFTH ARTICLE OF FAITH ON THE ADVENT OF THE MESSIAH WITH THE CONFESSION: "I COMFORT IN THE FULLEST BELIEF IN THE ADVENT OF PEACE; AND MAY IT BE BELATED, YET I SHALL BE WAITING FOR ITS COMING EVERY DAY." MR. PRESIDENT, THESE WORDS OF THE BIBLE/ HERE WE UNDERSTAND THE OLD TESTAMENT/ - THE WORDS OF GOD'S HOLY BOOK CHERISHED BY MILLIONS, INCLUDING NON-JEWISH READERS, AND THE WORDS OF ITS INTERPRETERS, DO THEY ONLY MEAN A HOLLOW SOUND TO YOU, EVEN TO YOUR CONSCIENCE AS AN OFFICER OF A CHRISTIAN CHURCH? THE SECOND ISSUE WITH WHICH WE TURN TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, IS THE QUESTION OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. ON THE OCCASION THIS YEAR OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, WE CANNOT LET UNREMEMBERED THE COMMENT OF RESIGNATION BY YOUR MINISTER CALIFAN, THAT THE NEGRO IN AMERICA IS ACCOMPANIED BY RASCISM FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE. SIMILARWF THE WORDS OF MRS. H. MASSON, WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, ABOUT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION WHICH TRIES TO REPRIMAND THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER CUNTRIES, BUT REFRAINS

FROM MOVING A FINGER IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, OR THE RECENT COMMENT BY YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVE, MR. ANDREW YOUNG, THAT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE USA, INCLUDING CHRISTIAN CHURCHMEN. WHEN WE CONSIDER THESE STATEMENTS OF YOU COLLABORATORS, THERE APPEARS A QUESTION IF YOUR CRITICISM OF JUSTICE AND OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULDNT BE LEAD SOMEWHERE ELSE THAN TO THE EAST? IN OUR COUNTRY, AS WELL AS IN THE COUNTRIES OF OUR FRIENDS IS THE PEOPLE AND ONLY THE PEOPLE THE CREATOR OF ALL WORTHS AND VALUES. THE PEOPLE OF THESE COUNTRIES ISN'T ONLY CREATING BUT ALSO RULING ITSELF; AND AS THE EXPERIENCE OF TENS OF YEARS CONVINCINGLY SHOWS, IT DOES IT WELL AND JUSTLY. WE WILL BE GLAD, MR. PRESIDENT, IF THIS LETTER OF OURS WILL MEET WITH KIND UNDERSTANDING ON YOUR PART, IF YOU WILL FIND TIME TO REFLECT ON ITS CONTENTS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 PRAGUE 02201 01 OF 02 181005Z

UNCOVER ITS SINCERITY. PLEASE, ACCEPT IT AS A COUNSEL BY THOSE WHO DESPITE, OR RATHER BECAUSE OF THEIR EXPERIENCES ENTERTAIN A FIRM BELIEF IN A FUTURE BRIGHT AND JOYFUL, IN A FUTURE WITHOUT A NEUTRON AND OTHER BOMBS, A FUTURE WITHOUT MUTUAL SUSPICION AND DISTRUST AMONG NATIONS.

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02201 02 OF 02 180942Z
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6023

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAGUE 2201

JULIUS EHRENTHAL, DR. BEDRICH BASS,
PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL UNION PRESIDENT OF THE JEWISH
OF JEWS IN THE SLOVAK SOCIALIST RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN
REPUBLIC THE CZECH SOCIALIST

REPUBLIC"

2. LETTER IS MUCH MORE MEASURED IN TONE THAN MOST WE RECEIVE ON NEUTRON BOMB AND HUMAN RIGHTS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WAS PREPARED UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM REGIME FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY TO JOIN RANKS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSING NEUTRON BOMB DEPLOYMENT.

3. WE BELIEVE LETTER DESERVES A REPLY AND ALSO THAT A REPLY RELEASED TO PUBLIC COULD BE A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR BROADER USE IN EXPLAINING US POLICY. WE WOULD HOPE REPLY COULD BE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT, BUT ARE READY TO PREPARE ONE IN HIS NAME IF SO DIRECTED.

DECONTROL 4 YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.

BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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